

JOINT FINANCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEES

Date and Time: Monday, March 24, 2014 @ 5:15 pm., Council Chambers

Finance Members Present: Nagle (C), Oberbeck, Brezinski, Nutting, Winters

ED Members Present: Brezinski (C), Wagner, Nagle, Oberbeck, Rasmussen

Others Present: Tipple, Jacobson, Hardel, Barnes, Giese, Marquardt, Mielke, Kellbach, Gisselman, M. Lawrence, Werth, Seubert, Lapinski, Goede, Linda Karger, and other interested parties.

It was noted that there was a quorum of the Finance Committee and the Economic Development Committee was present and the meeting was called to order by Chairperson Nagle and Brezinski.

ED Item: Discussion and possible action on the Thomas Street Corridor Master plan.

Rasmussen stated with the revelation of recent events and the existence of multiple legal opinions on the matter surrounding Thomas Street, as well as the discussion that took place at Committee of the Whole immediately preceding this meeting, it would be appropriate to defer action on this item until we have some clear answers.

Motion by Rasmussen, second by Wagner to defer action on the Thomas Street Corridor Master Plan pending legal answers on the matter. Motion carried 5-0.

Joint Item: Discussion and possible action on the Highway 52 Parkway/Stewart Improvements.

Rasmussen stated given the fact that there has been such a mixed public reaction to the installation of the birds on Highway 52 Parkway, with the expenses it has incurred and it is yet to incur with the irrigation system, she struggled with committing another \$220,000 to Phase II of the project west of the highway. She felt they should withdraw the funding and their support for Phase II of the project relative to additional bird art.

Oberbeck commented they still need to look at ways to improve the entrances to the city and not ignore the fact that they are deteriorating and do not look very inviting. He felt Economic Development Committee should look at it as far as putting money towards these areas. Wagner agreed and clarified that not funding the \$220,000 for the birds doesn't mean that money can be used for other things because it was restricted funding for improvements.

Rasmussen stated she was not opposed to public art and streetscaping and suggested creating an ad hoc committee that deals with public art that has skills and expertise in this area. Another suggestion was an aesthetic subcommittee to gain input when redesigning streets, roads and corridors.

Marquardt questioned if they wanted the irrigation portion of the project completed and Rasmussen felt that they should complete it to make sure it grows and thrives. She questioned what the cost of the irrigation was. Marquardt estimated it would be \$18,000 - \$20,000.

Economic Development:

Motion by Rasmussen, second by Nagle not to progress with Phase II of the bird art west of the highway; but finish Phase 1, which includes connection of the water with an estimated cost of \$18,000 - \$20,000. Motion carried 4-1. (*Oberbeck was the dissenting vote.*)

Finance:

Motion by Winters, second by Nutting not to progress with Phase II of the bird art west of the highway; but finish Phase 1, which includes connection of the water with an estimated cost of \$18,000 - \$20,000. Motion carried 4-1. (*Oberbeck was the dissenting vote.*)

Consider Negotiations with CBL & Associates Properties, Inc. regarding tenant redevelopment and replacement plans.

Brezinski indicated this item would require closed session discussion.

CLOSED SESSION pursuant to 19.85(1)(e) of the Wisconsin Statutes for deliberating or negotiating the purchase of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session. (Negotiations with CBL & Associates Properties, Inc., regarding tenant redevelopment and replacement plans).

ED: Motion by Rasmussen, second by Wagner to convene into closed session. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Oberbeck, Rasmussen, Brezinski, Wagner, and Nagle. Motion carried 5-0.

Finance: Motion by Nutting, second by Brezinski to convene into closed session. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Nagle, Brezinski, Winters, Oberbeck, and Nutting. Motion carried 5-0.

Reconvened back into Open Session in the Board Room.

Adjournment (ED Committee)

Motion by Brezinski, second by Oberbeck to adjourn the Economic Development Committee. Motion carried unanimously. Adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

FINANCE ONLY ITEMS

Approve 2014 Budget Modification - Carry Over 2013 General Fund.

Groat stated they adopted a balanced budget in 2013 and then a number of transfers were approved during the year, which she reviewed. She stated when comparing the actual to the modified budget, we spent 99.3% of the budget. She indicated there were departments experiencing yearend deficits, which she also reviewed. She noted revenues fell short of projections by \$46,000 and provided details. She listed the carryover requests for unfinished projects.

Motion by Brezinski, second by Oberbeck to approve the 2014 budget modification for carry over. Motion carried 5-0.

Discussion of past and current fuel purchases and fuel purchase policies for city vehicles.

Marquardt referred to the information in their packets and commented it is hard to compare numbers from Department of Public Works and Metro Ride. He noted Metro Ride doesn't pay Wisconsin sales tax and they buy different fuel during the winter than DPW does and which is a little more expensive. He indicated he did look at a period from July 2013 – October 2013 under contract with the Riiser and buying the same type of fuel as Metro Ride and determined DPW saved approximately 1 cent per gallon. He felt it was a good system and noted Riiser calls DPW every day to check on the tanks.

Winters distributed some handouts and reviewed the data. He commented the results were somewhat inconclusive after a year and the quotation and bid process is preferred to an exclusive contract arrangement.

Motion by Winters, second by Oberbeck to give notice to Riiser to terminate the contract when the 60 days is up. Motion carried 5-0.

Consider Procurement Policy

Groat stated when we are purchasing something like fuel commodities that has a change in the market rate perhaps daily, we need to condense the quote process and not have a formal bid which would delay it. She suggested creating an exception for those types of commodity purchases that exceed \$25,000 and can continue with a less formal quote process or another option would be to raise the formal bid dollar amount. Oberbeck felt they had to take a look at and understand what state regulations may apply.

Winters asked Greg Seubert to explain the Metro Ride process. Seubert stated due to federal participation Metro Ride has to do the procurement by their requirements pursuant to the Federal Acquisition Register, which has a much lower threshold of \$3,000. He indicated if they exceed \$3,000 they have to acquire the good or service in a competitive manner and do a price analysis. He felt the easiest way to do that is to get competitive bids and they currently use price quotes via fax. Winters felt we should be taking quotes as well.

Motion by Winters, second by Nutting to direct staff to write that commodities are allowed to use quotes for \$5,000 - \$50,000 and bring it back. Motion carried 4-0.

Report: 2014 Pet License Activity

Groat reviewed the report, noting total revenue to date is \$33,530 compared to \$24,990 of last year. Winters commented great progress has been made, although the cat licensing was still very weak and at some point we may have to put some general tax dollars into the pet fund.

Authorize the write off of certain uncollectible delinquent personal property tax accounts from the City's accounting records.

Groat stated we do this each year with the assistance of the Attorney's Office, which allows us to go back and collect the funds from the other taxing jurisdictions. She noted they do still attempt to collect the debt and if we are successful we redistribute it back to other jurisdictions.

Motion by Brezinski, second by Winters to approve authorizing the write off of uncollectible delinquent personal property tax accounts from the City's accounting records. Motion carried 5-0.

Consider Sole Source Purchasing and Budget Modification for the Purchase of 16 portable radios and ancillary equipment for the Fire Department \$47,098.

Withdrawn

Consider adoption of contract for non-dog strays with Humane Society of Marathon County April 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014 and related budget modification.

Jacobson indicated they have been working cooperatively with the Humane Society to put together a contract for the impoundment, care and treatment of non-dog stray animals. She stated we have already agreed based on the RFP that they have reviewed that we are going to enter into a contract with them for \$32,400 with \$220 per cat for any over 150. Hardel commented we need to come up with the maximum number of the 150 total cats that would be designated for Everest Metro and Wausau. He indicated he spoke about it with Wally Sparks who was willing to resolve it.

Lt Barnes indicated that Attorney Shane Vanderwaal felt there was some language that did not need to be in the contract to include maximizing the welfare of the animals. There was also a section that was very important to the Humane Society regarding an agreement for the police department and the city to enter into conversation to explore and research alternatives to euthanasia in 2014, specifically trap, neuter and release. He stated it doesn't bind us to implement or support a program like that; it is simply an agreement with them that we would look at it and research it. Winters agreed that is something we should definitely do, but did not feel it belonged in the contract. Oberbeck felt it was a political issue that needs to be dealt with. Rasmussen pointed out trap, neuter and release has been discussed in PH&S and the Humane Officer is creating a report analyzing the drawbacks, benefits, and costs to present. There was consensus to remove the language from the contract as recommended by Vanderwaal.

Linda Karger stated the Humane Society feels very strongly about it because the Humane Society of the United States and the representatives in Wisconsin plan on attending the Council meeting to address it. Barnes suggested a compromise of having Chief Hardel and himself draft a letter to the Humane Society committing to those specific issues and to researching alternatives to euthanasia.

Motion by Winters, second by Brezinski to approve the contract with the recommended changes and to approve the budget modification from contingency. Motion carried 5-0.

Consider and approve amendment to the Regional Animal Control Services Contract between the City of Wausau and Everest Metro Police Department to add to the scope of work the provision of services for non-dog strays.

Jacobson explained this was an amendment to the current contract with Everest Metro to include scope of services that we will pick up stray cats and other non-dog strays.

Motion by Winters, second by Brezinski to approve the amendment to the contract with Everest Metro. Motion carried 5-0.

Consider request to terminate United Health Group parking lease.

Jacobson stated United Health Group has agreed to pay the rent discount of \$17,000 that she was directed to ask for.

Motion by Winters, second by Oberbeck to allow United Health Group to terminate their parking lease effective June 30, 2014 for a payment of \$17,000. Motion carried 5-0.

Authorizing renewal of parking lot lease. (3rd & Grant Street - Colonial Property 4, LLC)

Jacobson indicated she spoke with Mike Priebe, owner of the lot at 3rd and Grant Streets and he has interpreted the lease to include the plowing of the sidewalks at city expense, although she disagreed and told him it specified maintenance the parking lot only. She stated Priebe wants to continue to lease the lot to the city, however, he would like this clarified. He proposed to renew the lease on the same terms with the exception that the city would plow and sweep the sidewalks adjacent to the parking lot on the 3rd Street and Grant Street sides without charge. She indicated she has added that language to the contract and had no objections to any of the other terms.

Motion by Brezinski, second by Oberbeck to approve the renewal of the parking lot lease with the change as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

Adjournment (Finance Committee)

Motion by Brezinski, second by Oberbeck to adjourn the Finance Committee. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:33 pm.